

URBAN DISTRICT OF BRIXHAM.



A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

SANITARY INSPECTOR

-o-o-o-

1947.



URBAN DISTRICT OF BRIXHAM.

---



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URBAN DISTRICT OF BRIXHAM

Chairman of the Council:

Councillor J. Heron, J.P.

Public Health Committee:

Chairman: Councillor W. J. Lemin  
Councillors A. E. Buley, F. P. Lee, A. H. Brazier,  
J. R. Owen, G. I. Brinham, Mrs. A. M. Park, J. Heron.

Housing Committee:

Chairman: Councillor C. M. Ashford.  
Councillors H. M. Swardon, S. G. Mutter, W. W. Stokes,  
G. I. Brinham, Mrs. A. M. Park, J. Heron, W. J. Lemin.

Clerk of the Council.

T. Owen Davies.

Public Health Staff.

Medical Officer of Health, and Medical Officer for Maternity  
and Child Welfare Centre, and Port Medical Officer.

" + Andrew Dick, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.,

Deputy Medical Officer of Health and Port Medical Officer.

@ J. I. Snodgrass, M.B., Ch.B.

Sanitary Inspector and Inspector of Meat and Foods, Port  
Health Inspector, Housing Officer and Inspector under the  
Petroleum and Explosive Acts.

" + Francis Lawrence Godfrey, M.R.S.I., F.S.I.A.

Clerk and Typist for Medical Officer and Sanitary Inspector

@ Mrs. D. Worrall.

@ Part time

" Whole time

+ Salary contribution by Exchequer Grants.

R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.  
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FOR THE URBAN DISTRICT OF BRIXHAM FOR  
1947.

- o - o - o -

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1947.

The health of the population has continued to be good. There was no epidemic infection. Death rate shows little variation. A further increase of the Birth Rate (from 18.77 to 19.01 per 1000 of population is pleasing.

Water samples, taken quarterly, have given satisfactory results.

Diphtheria Immunisation

Diphtheria Immunisation has continued as formerly, the Agent used being Alum Precipitated Toxin in two doses of 0.3 cc., and 0.5 c.c.

One hundred and twenty three children under five years, and three children aged five to fifteen years were fully protected.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

A. DICK

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area of District ... ..	5,626	acres
Population, 1931 Census ... ..	8,147	
Population, estimated 1947 .. ..	8,835	
Number of Inhabited Houses, 1947 .. ..	2,655	approx.
Rateable Value of District at April 1st 1947: ... ..		
Inside Harbour Area . . . . .	£48,490	
Outside Harbour Area . . . . .	3,518	
	-----	
	£52,008	
	-----	

VITAL STATISTICS 1947

Male      Female      Total

LIVE BIRTHS.

Legitimate	83	69	152	} Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population .. 19.01
Illegitimate	7	9	16	
	-----	-----	-----	
	90	78	168	
	-----	-----	-----	

STILL BIRTHS

Legitimate	1	-	1	} Rate per 1,000 total live and still births . 5.91.
Illegitimate	-	-	-	
	-----	-----	-----	
	1	-	1	
	-----	-----	-----	

DEATHS

58	71	129	Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population . 14.60
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Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age:

Legitimate	1	2	3	} Rate per 1,000 of the live and still births. 23.66
Illegitimate	1	-	1	



## Deaths from Puerperal Causes -

Puerperal Sepsis ...	...	-	}	Rate per 1,000 live and still bitths 00.00
Other Puerperal Causes ...	...	-		

RAINFALL 1947.

January	4.01	May	2.18	September	1.83
February	2.97	June	3.40	October	1.20
March	13.04	July	2.06	November	2.89
April	2.83	August	1.27	December	3.26

Total 40.94 inches.

By Courtesy of Sir Harold  
Clayton

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Op. Neonatorium	...	...	...	...	1
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	1
Erysipelas	..	...	...	...	1
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	2
Diphtheria	..	...	...	...	-
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	3
Measles	...	...	...	...	14
					—
Total	...	...	...	...	22
					—

Cases admitted to Isolation Hospital, Kings Ash, Paignton  
from Brixham Urban District during 1947 ... 4

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Number of Cases</u>		
Scarlet Fever	...	...	2
Measles	...	...	2

CAUSES OF DEATH IN 1947 (As supplied by Registrar General)

DISEASE	Male	Female	Total
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever ...			
Measles ... ..			
Scarlet Fever ... ..			
Whooping Cough .. ..			
Diphtheria .. ..			
Influenza . ... ..		1	1
Encephalitis ... ..			
Cerebro Spinal Fever .. ..			
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	3	5	8
Other Tuberculosis ... ..			
Syphilis . ... ..			
Cancer ... ..	7	10	17
Diabetes .. ...	2		2
Cerebral Haemorrhage &c ... ..	9	14	23
Heart Disease ... ..	11	14	25
Other Circulatory Diseases .. ..	2	5	7
Bronchitis ... ..	6	3	9
Pneumonia (all forms) . ... ..	1	1	2
Other Respiratory Diseases .. ..	2	1	3
Ulcer (Gastric & Duodenal) .. ..		1	1
Diarrhoea (under 2 years) ... ..			
Appendicitis ... ..	1	-	1
Other digestive diseases ... ..		2	2
Acute and Chronic Nephritis . ... ..			
Puerperal Sepsis ... ..			
Other Puerperal Diseases ... ..			
Congenital debility, premature birth etc ... ..	3	2	5
Senility... ..			
Suicide ... ..			
Other Violence .. ..	2	1	3
All other causes ... ..	7	10	17
Diarrhoea (over 2 years) ... ..			
Smallpox .. ...			
Polio-myelitis .. ..			
Polioencephalitis ... ..			
Road Traffic Accidents ... ..	2	1	3
Total All Causes ... ..	58	71	129



TUBERCULOSIS.

Age periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
0								
1								
5								
15			1			1		
25	1	2						
35	2	1			1	2		
45	1	1				1		
55		1			2	1		
65 and upwards								
Totals	4	5	1		3	5		

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the year ending 31st December 1947.

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Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I herewith present my Twenty-second Annual Report, as required by the Minister of Health.

Yours faithfully,

F. L. GODFREY,

Sanitary Inspector and  
Inspector of Meat and Foods.

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HOUSING 1947

Number of new Houses erected during the year:-

(a) Total (including number given separate under (b))

I	By Local Authority	...	...	...	...	4
II	By other Authorities	..	...	...	...	-
III	By other bodies or persons	..	...	...	...	1

(b) With State Assistance under the Housing Acts:

I	By the Local Authority	...	...	...	...	4
	(a) For the purpose of Part II of the Housing Act 1925	...	...	...	...	0
	(b) For the purpose of Part III of the Housing Act 1925	...	...	...	...	0
	(c) For other purposes	...	...	...	...	0
II	By other bodies	...	...	...	...	0

HOUSING STATISTICS 1947

## 1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year:-

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	96
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ... ..	162
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (including under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932 ... ..	43
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ... ..	51
(3)		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	2
(4)		Number of dwelling-houses (excluding those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... ..	21

## 2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices . ... ..

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	... ..	35
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## 3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:

## (a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act 1936:

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... ..	12
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:	
	(a) By owners ... ..	12
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... ..	0

- (b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts.
- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... 37
  - (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices ...
    - (a) By owners ... 37
    - (b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... 0
- (c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act 1936:
- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made . 0
  - (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... 0
- (d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act 1936:
- (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made . ... 1
  - (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit .. ... 0

#### 4. Housing Act 1936, Part IV (Overcrowding)

- (a)
  - (1) Number of Dwellings overcrowded at end of year ... 0
  - (2) Number of families dwelling therein .. 0
  - (3) Number of Persons dwelling therein .. 0
- (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during year ... 1
- (c)
  - (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during year .. ... 1
  - (2) Number of persons concerned in such cases ... 6

- (d) Particulars of cases in which Dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding ... 0
- (e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider desirable to report ... 0

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SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT  
and work of the Public Health Department, 1947  
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HOUSING.

Number of Dwelling-houses completed during year 1947:

Detached houses	...	...	...	...	0
Terrace Houses	....	...	...	...	4
Bungalows	...	...	...	...	1
Semi-detached Bungalows	.	...	...	...	0

Total number of dwelling-houses completed during year 1947	...	...	...	...	5
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Public Buildings, Workshops etc...	...	...	...	...	0
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Number of houses built during the year for working classes:

For Local Authority	...	...	...	...	4
By Private effort	.	...	...	...	0

Number of new houses or flats required for working classes	...	...	...	...	...	200
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Houses inspected	..	....	...	...	...	96
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Cases of overcrowding abated	...	...	...	...	1
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Defective Houses repaired	...	...	...	...	31
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Defective floors repaired	.	...	...	...	9
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Defective roofs repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	27
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Defective yards paved	...	...	...	...	4
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Defective External plastering repaired	.	...	...	...	22
--	---	-----	-----	-----	----

Defective internal plastering repaired	.	...	...	...	15
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Defective windows repaired	...	...	...	...	7
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Defective stoves repaired	...	...	...	...	2
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Number of houses dealt with under Housing (Rural Workers Act 1926:

During year	...	...	...	...	...	0
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Total to date	.	...	...	...	...	23
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DRAINS AND DRAINAGE.

## Sewers extensions during year:

Centry Road - 35 yards of 9" sewer	
Drains examined ... ..	16
Defective Drains repaired or renewed ... ..	27
Certificates issued in respect of drainage of new buildings .. ...	5
Certificates issued in respect of drainage of existing buildings ... ..	22
Existing W.C.s fitted with flushing cisterns, or cisterns renewed ... ..	6
Defective traps removed or replaced with approved stoneware gully traps ... ..	27
Defective w.c.s repaired ... ..	11
Automatic cisterns fixed ... ..	5

The following sanitary fittings have been installed during the year:

New baths ... ..	14
W.C.s ... ..	10
Lavatory Basins ... ..	16
Urinals ... ..	2
Scullery Sinks . ... ..	21
Septic Tanks ... ..	1

Infectious Disease and Disinfection.

Rooms fumigated ... ..	37
Articles of clothing and bedding disinfected ... ..	42
Articles of clothing and bedding destroyed ... ..	17
Rooms disinfected for notifiable infectious disease	2
Rooms disinfected for tuberculosis .. ...	15
Rooms disinfected for verminous condition . ...	20
Cases removed to Isolation Hospitals ... .	4

Meat and Food Inspection

(Public Health (Meat) Regulations 1924)

Number of butchers shops in the district .. ...	8
Other Food shops and stores ... ..	81
Number of visits to butchers' shops .. ...	92
Number of visits to other food shops and stores .	161



INSPECTION OF MEAT AND FOODS

Slaughtering in District (except for casuals) ceased in January 1940 (M.O.F. Order) All meat is received from Paignton Depot

WEIGHT OF UNFIT FOOD DESTROYED.

	Tuberculosis lbs	Other Diseases and conditions lbs	Total lbs
Beef		165	165
Mutton			
Pork			
Offals		38	38
Total		203	203

The following Foods have been surrendered as unsound:-

66 tins Vegetables; 39 tins Fruit; 116 tins Meat;  
423 tins Milk; 82 tins Fish; 123 tins Jam; 20 lbs Imported Beef; 50 lbs English Beef; 75 lbs smoked Fish;  
122 Eggs; 12 lbs Sugar; 8 lbs Sweets; 241 lbs Dried Fruits;  
150 lbs Oranges; 10 Boxes Peaches; 10lbs Tea  
Foodstuffs damaged by Flood Water March 5th 1947:

480 lbs Cherries; 90 lbs Peas; 22 tins Egg Powder;  
45 lbs Damsons; 114 packets Jellies; 115 lbs Plums;  
70 lbs Chestnuts; 60 lbs Dessert Mould; 47 lbs Cake Mixture; 28 lbs Peppermints; 800 lbs Cake Flour;  
54 lbs Biscuits; ; 20 lbs Semolina; 56 lbs Dried Peas;  
369 lbs Sugar; 100 lbs Macaroni; 30 lbs Pearl Barley;  
112 lbs Oat Flakes; 136 lbs Oat Meal; 48 lbs Barley Flakes.

MILK AND DAIRIES.

Number of cow-keepers and dairymen registered at end of year:

Producer Wholesalers ... ..	6
Producer Wholesalers and Retailers . ...	4
Producer Retailers .... .	14
Retailers... ..	15
Number removed from Register . ...	1

Number of cowsheds in District ... ..	25
Number of cowsheds without impervious floors ...	6
Number of cowsheds with unsatisfactory drainage	3
Number of cowsheds with unsatisfactory ventilation	2
Number of cowsheds with unsatisfactory lighting	2
Number of cowsheds with unsatisfactory water supply	2

Number of visits to dairies, cowsheds, farms etc. 61

Number of samples of milk taken for examination:

For cleanliness... ..	8
For tuberculosis . ....	2
For adulteration (taken by County Police).	18

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

Number of slaughterhouses in district:

Registered ) not in ... ..	3
Licensed ) use ... ..	0

Number of visits to slaughterhouses ... .. 0

Number of visits to premises where emergency or occasional slaughtering is carried out ... 9

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

Number of noxious or offensive trades in district 0

NUISANCES.

Complaints of nuisances received ... ..	57
Informal notices served ... ..	9
Statutory Notices served .. ...	1
Nuisances abated without written notice ...	31

SCHOOLS.

Number of schools in District:

Public ... ..	5
Private .. ...	3
Number of schools found defective ... ..	0
Number of notices to Managers ... ..	0
Number of visits to schools ... ..	14

BAKEHOUSES.

Number of bakehouses in district ... ..	8
Number of inspections ... ..	16
Number found defective ... ..	1
Number of notices to remedy ... ..	1

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS ACT 1901  
AND FACTORIES ACT 1937.

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health including inspections made by Sanitary Inspector.

Number of factories and workshops registered in district 61

Premises (1)		Inspections (2)	Number of written notices (3)	Occupiers prose- cuted. (4)
FACTORIES with Mechanical power .....	20	16		
Factories without mechanical power .....	39	35		
+ OTHER PREMISES under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction but not including outworkers' premises) .....	2	2		
+ Electrical stations should be reckoned as factories TOTAL	61	53		

## 2. Defects Found:

Particulars  (1)	Number of Defects			Number of offences in respect to which prosecutions were instituted (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
Want of cleanliness (s1)	1	1		
Overcrowding (s2) .....				
Unreasonable temperature (s3) .....				
Inadequate ventilation (s4) .....				
Ineffective drainage of floors (s6) .....				
Sanitary Conveniences (s7)				
Insufficient .....				
Unsuitable or defective	1	1		
Not separate for sexes .				
Other offences .....				
(Not including offences relating to Home Work or offences under the Section mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops) Transfer of Powers) Order 1921, and re-enacted in the Third Schedule to the Factories Act 1937)				
	2	2		



ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

- (1) (a) Number of Council houses found to be infested 0  
 Number of Council Houses disinfected ..... 0
- (b) Number of other houses found to be infested. 3  
 Number of other houses disinfected ..... 3
- (2) Spraying with approved insectide after removing wallpaper, skirting, etc.
- (3) No action is taken before the removal of the tenants belongings, except inspection by the Sanitary Inspector.
- (4) Work of disinfection is carried out by the Public Health Department.
- (5) Tenants are advised by the Sanitary Inspector as to measures to prevent re-infestation after cleansing.

PETROLEUM AND EXPLOSIVES ACTS.Particulars of Registration.

Number of Licences granted to store Petroleum Spirit	19
Number of Licences granted to store Carbide of Calcium	1
Number of Licences granted to store Mixed Explosives .	6
Number of Licences granted to store Gunpowder and Mixed Explosives in Magazines .....	2

RAIS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT 1919Infestation Order 1944.

The agreement with the Dartmouth Corporation for their operator to carry out Rodent Control in Brixham on alternate weeks is proving satisfactory, and further progress has been made in the control by block treatment of properties. The sewer treatment has been carried out with very good results.

DETAILS OF SHIPPING

Entering the Port Health District of Brixham, and Record  
of Inspection for the year ending 31st December  
1947.

1. AMOUNT OF SHIPPING ENTERING THE PORT DURING THE YEAR (Table A)

	Number	Nett- Tonnage	Numbers Inspected.		Numbers reported defective	Numbers Orders issued
			By Port H.	By Port San. In.		
(Steamers (Motors (Sailing (Fishing  FOREIGN	29 37 465	18,768 693 5,929	1 - Periodical insp- ections made	9 2		
TOTAL FOREIGN	551	25,390	1	11		
(Steamers (Motors (Sailing (Fishing  COAST- WISE	48 78 136 6	9,634 15,820 4,384 168	2 3 1	5 21 7 2		
TOTAL COASTWISE	268	27,006	6	35		
TOTAL FOREIGN AND COASTWISE	819	52,396	7	46		
BRIXHAM (Sailing TRAWLERS (Motor	57	1,800	Periodical insp- ections made.			



## II CHARACTER OF TRADE OF PORT (Table B)

- (a) Passenger Traffic  
No passengers have landed or embarked during the year.
- (b) Cargo Traffic.  
Principal Imports - Oil  
Principal Exports - Oil
- (c) Foreign ports from which vessels arrive.  
Various foreign Ports with and for oil bunkers.

## III WATER SUPPLY.

- (1) Source of Supply.  
Water is supplied direct from the town reservoirs both to the Port and Shipping.
- (2) Hydrants and hose-pipes are kept in lockers when not in use.
- (3) There is one water boat owned by the Torbay Coaling Company Limited, for supplying ships, and this boat is in good condition.

## IV PORT SANITARY REGULATIONS 1933 - 1945.

- (1) Declarations of Health are handed to the masters of ships on arrival of the staff of H.M. Customs.
- (2) The boats of the local coaling company are available for boarding vessels on arrival.
- (3) Notification of any vessel requiring special attention is received by H.M. Customs or the local coaling company, and is telephoned to the Public Health Office.
- (4) A mooring station for infected vessels is provided at the entrance to the Outer Harbour.
- (5) The Port Medical Officer is prepared to grant the usual standing exemptions for -
  - (a) All other unhealthy vessels other than those included in Articles 12 and 14 (1)
  - (b) Vessels otherwise healthy which have arrived from listed ports in infected areas.

- (6) In cases in which persons have to be notified as proceeding to this area from a vessel on which infectious disease has occurred, it is the practice for the Medical Officer to examine the person on arrival, and at intervals, as required by the regulations.
- (7) (a) A waiting-room is provided on the Pier, where persons could be examined.
- (b) The necessary material for fumigation of cabins, bunks, etc., is provided by the Public Health Department.
- Disinfection of clothes or bedding would be carried out at Paignton Hospital by arrangement.
- (c) Temporary accommodation for the purpose of the regulations would be provided at one of the hospitals in the District
- (d) Hospital accommodation for Plague, Cholera etc., is provided by the Devon County Council at Exeter.
- (e) Ambulance transport for infectious cases (d) is provided by the Devon County Council.
- (f) The local Port Medical Officer would be responsible for the supervision of contacts.
- (8) Pathological and bacteriological examinations would be carried out by the County Medical Department.
- (9) ditto
- (10) Treatment for venereal disease is available at Torquay Hospital Clinic.
- (11) Arrangements for the internment of the dead is made by the local agents for the shipping company concerned, in conjunction with the Port Health Officer.
- (12) Nil

Table C - No cases of infectious sickness have been landed during the year.

Table D - No reports made.

## V. MEASURE AGAINST RODENTS.

- (1) (a) Ships in the Port are inspected for the presence of rats. (b) The quays, wharves and stores are also inspected at regular intervals.
- (2) Rat guards are fitted to ships.
- (3) (a) Arrangements would be made with Plymouth, if required.  
(b) Baits are laid in stores etc.
- (4) Reports received from masters, occupiers etc.
- (5) Stores built of stone and sheet-iron.

Table E - No information available.

Table F.- Approximately 72 brown rats

Table G - Nil

Table H - Not an approved Port

Table J - No defects notified.

## VII FOOD INSPECTED.

- (1) No food imports
- (2) No shell-fish bed or laying in the Port Health District
- (3) No samples taken.

I wish to express me very best thanks to the Officers of H.M. Customs, The Manager and Staff of the Torbay Coaling Company Limited, and the Harbour Master, for their co-operation and assistance.

F. L. GODFREY M.S.I.A.

Port Health Inspector.

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